

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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E. O. 11652

TAGS: US, XC, PFOR

SUBJECT: MARCH 13 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. DOD SAYS SUBSTANTIAL MOVEMENT OF NVA MEN AND SUPPLIES CONTINUES SOUTHWARD - SOME INTO SVN. " SUBSTANTIAL CONCERN" IN WH BUT NO ANALYSIS YET OF HANOI MOTIVE OR LONG- TERM MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE. EST. 30,000 MEN AND OVER 300 ARMORED VEHICLES HAVE MOVED DOWN HO TRAIL, SEVERAL THOUSAND MEN BELIEVED CROSSED INTO SVN. CONSIDERABLE TRUCK TRAFFIC REPORTED ACROSS DMZ. FRIEDHEIM DECLINES SPECULATE WHY ADMIN HASN' T PROTESTED SHARPLY, SAYING THIS IN " DIPLOMATIC ARENA." OFFICIALS SAY IT WILL BE HARDER OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR NVN AID IF MOVEMENT CONTINUES (WP GETLER; SUN).

2. ALL PAPERS FEATURE SCHEDULED DRV RELEASE 108 POWS WEDNESDAY, INCLUDING LT. CMDR. JOHN S. MC CAIN, III. VC UNCLASSIFIED

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ANNOUNCE RELEASE 32 FRIDAY. DOS SAYS BOBBY JOE KEESEE, ON VC LIST, APPARENTLY HAD HIMSELF FLOWN BY THAI PILOT TO NVN IN 1970. HE IS "TOTALLY PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL" DOS ANXIOUS FIND OUT WHAT HE WAS UP TO (WP, NYT).

NYT'S TREASTER REPORTS GVN IN PROCESS RELEASING 1300 COMMUNIST POWS AND WELCOMING 600 ITS OWN. FEWER EXCHANGED THAN SCHEDULED DUE COMMUNIST CHARGE GVN CARRYING ON MIL

OPS IN RELEASE AREA. GVN DENIES AND REFERS CASE TO ICCS. FIGHTING LEVEL HIGHER THAN ANY TIME SINCE C- F ANNOUNCED.

4. IN SECOND ARTICLE ON PHONY NVN CURRENCY, DUDMAN (ST. L. P- D, MAR. 8) SAYS SECRET SERVICE AGENTS CONFISCATED SAMPLES OF COUNTERFEIT NVN CURRENCY FROM USIA FILES AS "CONTRABAND" UNDER LAW PROHIBITING COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY IN ANY NATION. SS OFFICIAL JOHN WARNER LATER SAID IT WAS CLEAR FROM PROPAGANDA MESSAGE THAT BILLS WERE "FLASH NOTES," ADDING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW USIA INTENTION IN MATTER. ANOTHER AGENT, HOWEVER, SAID BOGUS BILLS WOULD BE ACCEPTED AS CURRENCY IN NVN. USIA EAST ASIA CHIEF CRANE TOLD P- D THAT AGENCY AGREED TO PRINT BILLS ONLY AFTER SATISFIED DOD KNEW BILLS WOULD NOT BE EXACT COPIES OF GENUINE ARTICLE.

5. WAR CRITIC REP. BURTON (D. CAL.) ENDORSES NVN AID, SAYING MONEY IS "LITTLE ENOUGH" CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE COULD BE WAR'S CONTINUATION (WP).

6. RECENTLY RELEASED FROM CON SON FOR WHAT HE SAYS WERE "ACTS OF POLITICAL PROTEST," JEAN- PIERRE DEBRIS AND FELLOW FRENCH EXCHANGE TEACHER ANDRE MENRAS EXPECTED TO TESTIFY BEFORE SFRC. DEBRIS CITED IN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHARGE THAT US AID FUNDS USED TO BUILD NEW CON SON PRISON "BUFFALO CAGES".

7. SUN'S WOODRUFF NOTES FROM HK THAT SIHANOUK HAS MADE NO PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN OVER THREE WEEKS. BELIEVES HE COULD BE ILL, OR SECRETLY NEGOTIATING SOMEWHERE WITH SOME PARTIES TO KHMER CONFLICT.

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8. CHITRIB'S KIRK REPORTS FROM BATTLE SCENE ALONG

ROUTE 2 IN CAMBODIA THAT FANK OFFICERS SAY THEY
CONTINUE NEED B-52 SUPPORT. US TACAIR PLAINLY
VISIBLE AS WELL AS SPOTTER PLANES.

9. NCNA REPORTS DRV FONMIN TRINH MET SUNDAY WITH CHI
PENG- FEI IN PEKING STOP- OVER EN ROUTE HOME FROM PARIS
(UPI, NYT 3).

10. PHINQ, PROMPTED BY GVN'S DEPORTATION OF UPI'S
DONALD DAVIS FOR " UN- VIETNAMESE ACTIVITIES,"
CRITICIZES SVN'S CENSORSHIP. EXPRESSES PROFOUND
GRATITUDE THAT US FORCES ARE BEING REMOVED FROM VN,
WHERE THEY NEVER BELONGED. ONCE GONE, WHAT THIEU
DOES IN HIS AUTHORITARIAN EXCESSES IS MORE THE SAD
BUSINESS OF VIETNAMESE THAN AMERICANS.

11. WP NOTES SIX WEEKS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE PARIS
AGREEMENT SIGNED, AND NO AID AT HAND. FAIR QUESTION
WHETHER OBSTACLES HIGHER IN HANOI OR WASHINGTON.
NVN HARDLY SO EAGER FOR AID THAT IT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY
ALTER EITHER LONG- TERM AMBITIONS OR CURRENT
TACTICS. HANOI'S C- F VIOLATIONS, WHILE BEARING SOME
RELATIONSHIP TO VIOLATIONS BY SAIGON, PERSIST AT LEVEL
TO ENSURE NO AID BY CONGRESS AND NO GREAT DISPOSITION
BY PRESIDENT TO PUSH FOR IT. MEANWHILE, NVN IMPROVING
ITS BARGAINING POSITION BY REOPENING AID PIPELINES
TO MOSCOW AND PEKING. NIXON HAS ALTERNATED BETWEEN
OFFERING AID IN SPIRIT OF HIS PARIS PLEDGE AND DANGLING
IT AS BAIT FOR BETTER COMPLIANCE WITH KEY C- F PROVISIONS.
PART OF DELAY IS EXPLICABLE. CONGRESS HAS NOT
VOTED AID, C- F IS INCOMPLETE AND RELEASE OF US POWS
IS STILL IN TRAIN. DELAY, HOWEVER, HAS SEEN INITIATIVE
TAKEN AWAY FROM NIXON. HE ALLOWED HARMFUL DEBATE TO
DEVELOP ON WHERE MONEY WOULD COME FROM; OVER- EMPHASIZED
WASHINGTON- HANOI ASPECTS OF AID WHEN HE MIGHT HAVE
HELPED HIS CAUSE BY STRESSING AN ATTEMPT TO HELP LAOS
AND CAMBODIA AS WELL AS VN. PRESIDENT MIGHT NOW BEST
SERVE US INTEREST BY TURNING ATTENTION ON ISSUE AWAY
FROM NUANCES OF POLITICS, TOWARDS NEEDS OF INDOCHINA
PEOPLE. ROGERS

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